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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To provide for the designation of the Russian Federation as a state sponsor
of terrorism.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LIEU introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To provide for the designation of the Russian Federation
as a state sponsor of terrorism.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Russia is a State Spon-
5 sor of Terrorism Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Pursuant to existing law, it is United States
9 policy to designate countries that have repeatedly

1 provided support for acts of international terrorism
2 as state sponsors of terrorism.

3 (2) Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of
4 North Korea, Iran, and Syria are designated as
5 state sponsors of terrorism.

6 (3) At the direction of President Vladimir
7 Putin, the Government of the Russian Federation
8 has and continues to promote acts of international
9 terrorism against political opponents and nation
10 states.

11 (4) Under the orders of President Putin, the
12 Government of the Russian Federation engaged in a
13 campaign of terror, utilizing brutal force targeting
14 civilians during the Second Chechen War.

15 (5) Actions by the Government of the Russian
16 Federation against civilian centers, such as Grozny,
17 the capital of Chechnya, left countless innocent men,
18 women, and children dead or wounded.

19 (6) Since 2014, the Government of the Russian
20 Federation has supported separatists engaging in
21 acts of violence against Ukrainian civilians in the
22 Donbas region.

23 (7) The Government of the Russian Federation
24 provides material support to Syria, a nation cur-

1 rently designated as a state sponsor of terrorism,
2 that has been used to target the Syrian people.

3 (8) According to the Congressional Research
4 Service, the Russian Federation spreads terror
5 throughout the world through private military net-
6 works of mercenaries, such as the Wagner Group, in
7 an effort to “project power cheaply and deniably”.

8 (9) The Wagner Group collaborates with the
9 Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation to
10 support the foreign policy objectives of the Russian
11 Federation.

12 (10) The Department of the Treasury identifies
13 the Wagner Group as “a designated Russian Min-
14 istry of Defense proxy force” and states that “Wag-
15 ner’s activities in other countries, including Ukraine,
16 Syria, Sudan, and Libya, have generated insecurity
17 and incited violence against innocent civilians”.

18 (11) It was reported in February 2022 that
19 more than 400 Russian mercenaries from the Wag-
20 ner Group were dispatched to Kyiv with orders from
21 the Kremlin to assassinate President Volodymyr
22 Zelensky and members of the Government of
23 Ukraine.

24 (12) On March 1, 2022, Jason Blazakis, the di-
25 rector of the Department of State’s Counterter-

1 rorism Finance and Designations Office in the Bu-
2 reau of Counterterrorism from 2008 to 2018, wrote
3 in reference to white supremacist groups that “Rus-
4 sia provides sanctuary to a U.S.-designated terrorist
5 group, the Russian Imperial Movement, which oper-
6 ates with impunity in Russian territory.”.

7 (13) On March 17, 2022, President Volodymyr
8 Zelensky called for the world to acknowledge the
9 Russian Federation as a terrorist state.

10 (14) The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine has ap-
11 pealed to Congress to encourage the Department of
12 State to recognize the Russian Federation as a state
13 sponsor of terrorism noting that “the Russian Fed-
14 eration has for years supported and financed ter-
15 rorist regimes and terrorist organizations, including
16 being the main supplier of weapons to the Assad re-
17 gime in Syria and supporting terrorists in the Mid-
18 dle East and Latin America, organizing acts of
19 international terrorism, including the poisoning of
20 the Skripal family in the United Kingdom of Great
21 Britain and Northern Ireland, the downing of a civil-
22 ian Malaysian airliner and other acts of terrorism”.

23 (15) On May 24, 2022, Ukrainian prosecutors
24 accused two Wagner Group mercenaries of commit-
25 ting war crimes against civilians near Kyiv.

1 (16) On July 18, 2022, the United Kingdom's
2 Ministry of Defence confirmed that the Wagner
3 Group plays a central role in recent fighting in
4 Ukraine, including Russia's capture of Popasna and
5 Lysyschansk.

6 (17) The United States has a range of tools
7 available to hold the Russian Federation account-
8 able, reduce its war machine, and isolate it economi-
9 cally and diplomatically, including by designating it
10 as a state sponsor of terrorism and imposing cor-
11 responding sanctions.

12 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AS A**
13 **STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Effective beginning on the date
15 of the enactment of this Act, the Russian Federation shall
16 be deemed to have been determined to be a country the
17 government of which has repeatedly provided support for
18 acts of international terrorism for purposes of—

19 (1) section 1754(c)(1)(A) of the Export Control
20 Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4813(c)(1)(A));

21 (2) section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act
22 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);

23 (3) section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act
24 (22 U.S.C. 2780); or

25 (4) any other provision of law.

1 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
2 may be construed as to provide for the imposition of sanc-
3 tions against any person that engages in transactions to
4 export agricultural products from Ukraine or to provide
5 humanitarian assistance in Ukraine.